CL16001673-01 Case 1:25-cv-00841-MSN-IDD

Document 18-2

Filed 07/17/25

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CL16001673-01

FILED by Arlington County Circuit Court 09/09/2019

VIRGINIA:

## IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ARLINGTON COUNTY

JUSTIN POTTER WILSON, JR.,

Plaintiff,

v.

Case No. CL 16-1673-01

ANNA VLADIMIROVNA WILSON, (f/k/a Anna Nikolaeva Wilson)

Defendant.

**CUSTODY ORDER** 

THIS CAUSE CAME before the Court on August 19-21, 2019 for a full evidentiary hearing upon Defendant's Verified Emergency Motion to Modify Child Custody and Visitation and Plaintiff's Motion to Modify Custody & Visitation of the minor child, Justin Potter Wilson III (hereinafter the "Child"), age 10, born September 1, 2008; and

SP M

IT APPEARING TO THE COURT that after carefully considering each of the factors in Virginia Code Section 20-124.3, affording each the appropriate weight, given the record in this case, the testimony presented, including the demeanor and credibility of the respective witnesses which the Court heard and observed over a period of three (3) days of testimony, and the exhibits introduced into evidence; that, for the reasons set forth in the Court's ruling on August 23, 2019, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part of this Custody Order below,

IN CONSIDERATION WHEREOF, it is hereby ORDERED AND ADJUDGED:

(1) <u>Transcript</u>. The transcript of this court's ruling of August 23, 2019 is attached hereto and incorporated by reference into this order.

Custody Order Wilson v. Wilson Case No. 16-1673-01 Page 1 of 6

- (2) Defendant's ("Mother's") Verified Emergency Motion to Modify Child Custody and Visitation is granted. Plaintiff's ("Father's") Motion to Modify Custody & Visitation is denied. The Court find that it is Father's conduct, not Mother's conduct, that brings this matter before the Court. The Court further finds that the custody and visitation schedule set forth in the parties' May 19, 2019 Marital Settlement Agreement shall be modified as follows.
- (3) <u>Legal Custody</u>. Defendant ("Mother") and Plaintiff ("Father") shall continue to share joint legal custody of the Child. In the event that the parties cannot reach agreement, then Mother shall have final authority to make decisions on behalf of the Child.
- (4) <u>Physical Custody</u>. Commencing August 26, 2019, Mother shall have primary physical custody of the Child.
- (5) <u>Visitation</u>. Commencing August 26, 2019, Father shall have visitation with the Child every other weekend beginning after school on Friday (or 4:00 p.m. if there is no school) until Monday night at 7:00 p.m. Father's alternating weekends shall begin on Friday, September 6, 2019.
- (6) <u>Summer Visitation</u>. The parties shall have additional custodial time with Justin during his summer vacation from school as follows:
- A. Father shall have two (2) uninterrupted weeks with the Child during the month of June. That fourteen (14) day period shall commence on a Sunday at 10:00 a.m. and end on a Sunday at 7:00 p.m. Father shall also have one uninterrupted week in each of the months of July and August from 10:00 a.m. Sunday until 7:00 p.m. the following Sunday. Mother shall not contact the Child during this time or schedule any activities for him.
- B. Mother shall have two (2) uninterrupted weeks with the Child during the Child's summer vacation from school, which can be either in July or August. That fourteen (14) day period shall commence on a Sunday at 10:00 a.m. and end on a Sunday at 7:00 p.m. Father shall not contact the Child during this time or schedule any activities for him.

birthday.

- C. The parties shall provide a written notice to each other, electronic mail being sufficient, of the dates of their respective weeks with the Child on or before April 15 each year. To the extend these dates conflict with each other, Mother's dates shall have priority in 2020 and all even-numbered years thereafter and Father's dates shall have priority in 2021 and all odd-numbered years thereafter. Neither parent's belief by hiddy by himdoy.

  (7) Parents' Birthdays. The Child shall spend parents' birthdays with the respective parent. The parent celebrating the birthday can pick the Child up the night before at 7:00 p.m. and return the child to school the morning after the birthday. If the morning after the birthday falls on a weekend, the Child shall be returned no later than 10:00 a.m., unless it is that parent's custodial weekend. Neither parent shall call the Child while the Child celebrating the other parent's
- (8) <u>Child's Birthday</u>. Commencing 2019 and every odd-year thereafter, the Child shall spend his birthday with Father. Commencing 2020 and every even-year thereafter, the Child shall spend his birthday with Mother. The parent celebrating the Child's birthday can pick the Child up the night before at 7:00 p.m. and return the child to school the morning after the Child's birthday. If the morning after the Child's birthday falls on a weekend, the Child shall be returned no later than 10:00 a.m., unless it is that parent's custodial weekend. The parent who is not with the Child on his birthday may call the Child at a time to be agreed upon by the parties.
- (9) <u>Holidays, Spring Break, and Winter Break</u>. Except as modified herein, the parties shall continue to share custody of the Child on holidays, spring break and winter break as set forth in their May 19, <del>2019</del> Marital Settlement Agreement.

## (10) <u>Telephone Calls</u>.

A. Father shall not call the Child during Mother's custodial time except Father may call the Child between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evening when the child is in Mother's custody. Father's calls to the Child shall be limited to half an hour. Mother will ensure that the Child is available to speak with Father during this Father's regula shall not The child Mother durmi except as provided hens up on Custody Order parents Case No. 16-1673-01 Page 3 of 6 Child, unles profacity is used a the case with the deld.

- B. Each parent will be permitted one half-hour call with the Child on the following holidays: New Year's Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas Day.
- C. The parents shall not call the Child on any other holiday when the Child is with the custodial parent and will be permitted one (1) call with the Child during spring and one (1) call with the Child during winter break during the other parent's custodial time.
- D. All telephone calls with the Child may be recorded at the option of the custodial parent without warning, and such recording will be deemed consensual on the part of the recorded party.
- (11) Camps and Extracurricular Activities. Neither parent shall schedule any camps or other activities for the Child during other parent's custodial time. Mother will advise Adam J. Sowa, Ph.D. or any other licensed therapist treating the Child at that time regarding any camp Mother intends to register the Child in during the summer prior to registration and that therapist will advise Mother if the Child expresses any concerns with any camps proposed. Mother will forward via electronic mail to Father invitations to birthday parties or other events that occur during Father's custodial time and Father shall have sole authority to decide whether the Child will attend.
- ("Mr. Retta") each week during Mother's custodial time. Said lesson shall be scheduled directly between Mother and Mr. Retta. Mother will bring the Child to and from the lesson. Father shall arrange for payment to Mr. Retta in accordance with any financial Father and Mr. Retta reach.
- (13) Travel. Each parent will give the other parent 24-hour notice, electronic mail being sufficient, of his/her intention to take the Child on a trip outside of the D.C. Metropolitan area, providing the time and dates of travel, destinations and persons traveling with the parent and the Child. Unless the travel dates include New Year's Day, Thanksgiving, or Christmas Day, the non-custodial parent shall not call the Child during the travel dates.
- (14) Therapy. Father shall continue his current therapy and shall also complete anger management therapy within six (6) months of the date of this Order. Father shall also engage in

family counseling with the Child and coordinate the counseling with Adam J. Sowa, Ph.D. or any Custody Order

Wilson v. Wilson Case No. 16-1673-01

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other licensed therapist treating the Child at that time. Mother shall engage in family counseling with the Child and coordinate the counseling with Adam J. Sowa, Ph.D. or any other licensed therapist treating the Child at that time.

- Neither parent shall make derogatory or disparaging comments about the other parent or the activities that parent has arranged for the Child. Neither parent shall use profanity in conversations with the Child or with the other parent.
- (16)Attorney's Fees. The Court finds that the award of attorney's fees to Mother is FIFT Three supported by the record. Father shall pay the sum of Sixty Four Thousand Four Hundred Eleven \$53,413. 27 and 52/100 Dollars (\$64,411.52) to Mother as and for reimbursement of her attorney's fees within

thirty (30) days of the date of this Order. This amount shall be paid based on the fore to plowing schedule: a) \$17,804.42 is due and poyable on or before (17) 30 Day Notice. Pursuant to Section 20-124.5 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as November amended, thirty (30) days advance written notice must be given to the Court and the other party by any party intending to relocate and of any intended change of address. Such notice shall provide the Court and the other party of the intended date of change of address, the specific street, route address, city or county, state and zip code of the intended new address. Such written notice shall be mailed to the Court at the following address: Clerk of the Court, Circuit Court of Arlington County, 1425 N. Courthouse Road, Arlington, Virginia 22201, and shall certify the date that such information was mailed or otherwise delivered to the other party.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk of the Court may forthwith issue certified copies of this Order to Counsel of Record.

ENTERED this *Quaday* of September, 2019.

Circuit Court Judge

Custody Order

Wilson v. Wilson
Case No. 16-1673-01 b) \$17,804.42 is due and populse on \$17,804.42 is
Page 5 of 6 or before January 6, 2020; and (c) \$17,804.42 is

due and payable or or before March 6,2020.

SEEN: AND OBJECTED TO A

KUBLAN KHAN PLC

By:

ANDREI J. KUBLAN (VSB No. 73120)

Counsel for Defendant/Mother 6521 Arlington Blvd., Suite 201 Falls Church, Virginia 22042 Telephone: (703) 854-1081

Facsimile: (703) 854-1083 Email: andrei@kublankhan.com Counsel for Defendant (Mother) holiday scheenle as cet forthe

May 19, 2016 Marital Settlent

Agreement is appropriate:

- considery the Court i ruling

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custods to Mother extery

other weekend to Father.

SEEN: AND OBJECTED TO FOR THE FOLLOWING REALOWS: A

HICKS CRANDALL JUHL, PC

By:

SARAH ANN PIPER (VSB 47290)

Counsel for Plaintiff/Father

Three Flint Hill

3201 Jermantown Road, Suite 200

Fairfax, Virginia 22030

Telephone: (703) 691-4848

Facsimile: (703) 359-0197

sarah@hcj-law.com

Counsel for Plaintiff (Father)

A O The excourt's finding that Detarbint and hor witnesses were credible was a above of discretion.

- 2) The court full to take into account Plantiff's etterts and actue and involved position role in effectuating ADHD behavioral modifications for the child; which evidence was provided by plaintiff, expert Soura, witness some and witness Retta. This was an abuse of discretion; as the court did not properly current this evidence in respect to 20-124,3(1) 20-124,3(1).
- (3) The courty findings in respect to Defendant's psychological evaluation and the weight given thereto was enror and an abuse of discretion in considering 20-124.3(1).

(4) The court's fullwe to consider Defordant's interference in Plaintiff's carls with size consider of disordern (fullwe to consider court) was an abuse of disordern (fullwe to consider)

Custody Order Wilson v. Wilson Case No. 16-1673-01 Page 6 of 6

## VIRGINIA:

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ARLINGTON COUNTY

JUSTIN POTTER WILSON, JR., )

Plaintiff,

J. CASE NO. 16-1673-01

ANNA VLADIMIROVNA WILSON,

Defendant.

Circuit Courtroom 10C
Arlington County Courthouse
Arlington, Virginia

Friday, August 23, 2019

The above-entitled matter came on to be heard before the HONORABLE JUDITH L. WHEAT, Judge, in and for the Circuit Court of Arlington County, in the Courthouse, 1425 North Courthouse Road, 10th Floor, Arlington, Virginia, beginning at 4:15 o'clock p.m.

## APPEARANCES:

On Behalf of the Plaintiff:

Sarah A. Piper, Esquire HICKS CRANDALL JUHL, P.C. 3201 Jermantown Road Suite 200 Fairfax, Virginia 22030

On Behalf of the Defendant:

Andrei J. Kublan, Esquire KUBLAN KHAN, PLC 6521 Arlington Boulevard Suite 201 Falls Church, Virginia 22042

Verbatim Reporting, LLC 14723 Braddock Road Centreville, Va 20120 703 932 0654

1	PROCEEDINGS
2	THE COURT: Good afternoon.
3	THE COURT REPORTER: Good afternoon.
4	THE COURT: Do I need to swear you again? Ms.
5	Court Reporter, should I swear you again?
6	THE COURT REPORTER: Oh, yes.
7	(Whereupon, the court reporter was duly sworn by
8	the Court.)
9	THE COURT: Good afternoon, Counsel, Mr. and
10	Mrs. Wilson.
11	This case comes before the Court on the
12	Defendant's emergency motion to modify custody and the
13	Plaintiff's cross motion to modify custody.
14	Upon consideration of the record in this case,
15	the testimony presented, including the demeanor and
16	credibility of the respective witnesses, review of the
17	exhibits introduced into evidence, and having afforded the
18	weight the Court deems appropriate to each, the Court
19	finds that there is sufficient evidence that there is a
20	material change in circumstances regarding the custody of
21	the parties' minor child, Justin Wilson.
22	Specifically the Court finds that the father

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Justin Potter Wilson, Jr., has engaged in behavior over a period of months in which he has disparaged the mother, Anna Wilson, in front of Justin, who is 10 years old, used profane and wholly inappropriate language in talking with the child about his mother on numerous occasions, and engaged in an ongoing and continuous course of conduct designed to turn the child against his mother and interfere with Ms. Wilson's custody and visitation rights which the parties mutually agreed would govern the relationship at the time of their divorce. This conduct violates the Marital Separation Agreement between the parties and has caused severe stress and anxiety to the minor child, as attested by the child's therapist, Dr. Sowa. In determining custody and or visitation for a minor child, Virginia Code 20-124.3 requires the Court to consider the following factors. 1. The age and physical and mental condition of the child, giving due consideration to the child's changing developmental needs. Justin is 10 years old. He will turn 11 next

month and entering the fifth grade. He has been diagnosed

with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder -- ADHD -- and has documented difficulty with impulsive behavior, executive functioning and decision making, including processing information, following instructions, and understanding the consequences of his words, actions and choices.

Evidence regarding Justin's diagnosis and functioning was provided by Dr. Sowa, a clinical psychologist and Justin's treating therapist, and Mr. Sere, Director of Lower Education at Commonwealth Academy, Justin's elementary school.

It is undisputed that at various times over the past twelve months Justin has presented as depressed, anxious and or stressed, specifically, one, when transitioning between his parents' custodial time; two, prior to and during phone conversations with Mr. Wilson during mother's custodial time; and, three, in the presence of Mother, after returning from Father's custodial time, as evidenced by the testimony of Defendant's witnesses Galina Spivak, Olga Bogatova and Maxim Usubyan, and Plaintiff's witnesses, Michael Retta and Dr. Sowa.

Justin has been described as otherwise healthy, although small for his age. He enjoys playing tennis and other sports, is an avid reader, and reads and speaks in both Russian and English.

When in the company of one parent or the other, he presents as happy, warm and loving toward that parent. He has been described by numerous witnesses as sociable and having a varied group of friends, including both childhood friends and classmates.

Dr. Sowa testified that Justin is making progress in therapy addressing his ADHD. And Mr. Sere testified that his grades at Commonwealth Academy have been good.

The second factor. The age and physical and mental condition of each parent.

Addressing first Ms. Wilson, Ms. Wilson is a 46-year-old female who has been diagnosed with insomnia. A considerable amount of testimony was presented to the Court regarding Ms. Wilson's prescribed use of Xanax for insomnia during the period 2015 to the present, and its effect on her ability to be an appropriate custodian for Justin.

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Ms. Wilson's primary physician, Dr. Maria Natividad, who was accepted by the Court as an expert in internal medicine, testified that she has been Ms. Wilson's doctor since June, 2009, and has been treating Ms. Wilson for stress related insomnia since approximately 2015 when Ms. Wilson and Mr. Wilson separated. Dr. Natividad originally prescribed .5 milligrams of alprazolam, otherwise known as Xanax, for Ms. Wilson which she described as the lowest dose. that time Dr. Natividad has increased Ms. Wilson's prescription to one and a half to two milligrams daily to be taken before bed. Dr. Natividad explained that it is normal over the course of time to increase the dosage of Xanax when used for insomnia, as the patient becomes more accustomed to the drug. She testified that Ms. Wilson is still on a low dosage of Xanax, given the number of years she has been on the medication. Recognizing the potential for alprazolam to be abused, Dr. Natividad testified that she meets with Ms. Wilson every 3 to 6 months and reviews her use of alprazolam to ensure it is still medically appropriate.

1 She also reviewed Ms. Wilson's prescription 2 report and confirmed that Ms. Wilson's usage was 3 consistent with the medication that had been prescribed. Because of the amount of time that Ms. Wilson 4 5 has taken the drug, she has twice tried to change Ms. Wilson to a different medication, but neither was found to 6 7 be effective in addressing Ms. Wilson's medical condition. 8 Dr. Natividad opined to a reasonable degree of 9 medical certainty that Ms. Wilson is not addicted to 10 alprazolam and that her usage of the drug is medically 11 appropriate. 12 Dr. Natividad's testimony was largely 13 corroborated by the testimony of Plaintiff's witness, 14 George Young, a clinical social worker who was accepted by the Court as an expert in the field of substance abuse 15 16 counseling and testing. 17 Mr. Young is not a medical doctor and has never 18 prescribed alprazolam for any medical condition. He has 19 never met with Ms. Wilson or conducted any substance abuse 20 evaluation of her. 21 He has reviewed the medical records admitted 22 into evidence and Ms. Wilson's deposition testimony, and

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agreed that Ms. Wilson's use of Xanax appeared consistent with what had been prescribed by Dr. Natividad. He also agreed that use of one and a half to two miligrams of alprazolam per day would not in itself indicate a dependency on the drug.

He opined that as a substance abuse professional, not a medical professional, he had a concern about whether Ms. Wilson had a dependency on the medication, given the length of time Ms. Wilson had used the medication and the amount prescribed, but again acknowledged he had not conducted a personal evaluation of Ms. Wilson and had no medical training -- no formal medical training.

He also opined that, given these factors, any decision for her to stop using alprazolam needed to be done gently to avoid potential medical complications.

Since he had not personally evaluated Ms. Wilson, he could not render any further opinions regarding the appropriateness of Ms. Wilson's alprazolam use.

Mr. Young described a number of possible side effects of alprazolam that he has observed in his clinical practice on the part of individuals who have developed a

chemical dependency to the drug, including irritability, mood swings and difficulty operating motor vehicles. He could not opine whether Ms. Wilson experienced any of these side effects from her alprazolam use.

Mr. Young also agreed that these side effects would be less of an issue for a person taking the medication before going to sleep, as does Ms. Wilson, since the drug would likely have flushed out of a person's system by morning.

Dr. Natividad testified that she had not observed any adverse indications from Ms. Wilson's use of the drug. And Ms. Wilson's fact witnesses confirmed that they had never observed any behavior suggesting she was abusing drugs or alcohol.

I found the testimony of Ms. Wilson's fact witnesses to be credible.

Dr. Samenow, the independant mental health expert appointed by the Court, testified that he was aware that Ms. Wilson had an issue with sleeping and had been prescribed Xanax. He testified that he was not a medical doctor and, therefore, was not qualified to comment on whether the Xanax dosage medically prescribed for Ms.

Wilson was appropriate.

He agreed that the use of Xanax, even pursuant to a doctor's prescription, could be a cause of concern if there was evidence that Ms. Wilson was taking the drug in an amount that exceeded what had been prescribed on an ongoing basis. No such evidence has been tendered to the Court.

The Plaintiff introduced photographs from

Defendant's Facebook page showing her drinking a glass of
wine on her birthday and at a friend's birthday

celebration, which was consistent with Ms. Wilson's

testimony that she occasionally drinks one or two glasses
of wine on social occasions.

Dr. Natividad testified that if Ms. Wilson had a glass of wine and took a Xanax at the same time, she would feel extremely drowsy. There was no evidence presented that Ms. Wilson ever did this.

The Court had ample opportunity to observe Dr.

Natividad's demeanor while on the witness stand and

reviewed a copy of her curriculum vitae, which was entered

into evidence. The Court finds Dr. Natividad's testimony

to be credible.

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The Court further finds, based on the totality of the evidence, there is no evidence that Ms. Wilson has a substance abuse problem or that her use of Xanax interferes with any of her ongoing daily activities. Dr. Samenow conducted psychological testing which also contained no indication of any psychopathology on the part of Ms. Wilson. Dr. Samenow interviewed Ms. Wilson and a number of Ms. Wilson's colleagues, including Galina Spivak and Frederico Delasobera, who both testified at trial and were subject to cross examination by counsel for Mr. Wilson. Dr. Samenow found that Ms. Wilson is reflective and appeared willing to identify and discuss shortcomings. She is generally a cheerful person but not ambitious or competitive. She self-reported difficulty making decisions because she is "full of doubts". Based on his evaluation, Dr. Samenow found that Ms. Wilson had some general anxiety as well as difficulty sleeping, both situational and stemming from the divorce. His professional opinion, therefore, is that Ms. Wilson has no diagnosable mental disorder.

. 1 Ms. Wilson appears otherwise healthy and engages 2 in a variety of activities, including hiking, camping, 3 travel, cooking and reading. Mr. Wilson. Mr. Wilson is a 46-year-old male 4 5 who self-reports that he has undiagnosed ADHD. 6 William Zuckerman, the independent mental health expert 7 appointed by the Court, found the following with respect 8 to Mr. Wilson. 9 "He can be assertive" -- and this is a quote --10 "He can be assertive, even aggressive at times, not 11 necessarily physical, in his interpersonal relationships, 12 but his social skills are good. He is able to work 13 collaboratively with others and he is likely in most 14 situations to act in a conventional way. 15 "He can be oppositional at times but he is also 16 likely to be quite perseverant in pursuit of his goals 17 with that pursuit having yielded positive results in the 18 past. 19 "Mr. Wilson is stressed by the current 20 circumstances so that he is likely to be experiencing 21 tension and some helplessness along with a temporary

increase in irritability. However, his coping skills, in

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general, are within the normal range. He may have some deficits in understanding others, but they are balanced by a level of interest in others and an ability to develop warm and intimate relationships. Moreover, his thinking is likely to be logical and coherent and his day to day judgments are likely to be within the normal range. "Family issues can create some stress for Mr. Wilson, perhaps due to current and past events, but he is quite child focused with a strong and positive view toward his son and a normal positive embrace of the parental position. "Despite the current stress, there are no longterm predictions of difficulty with anxiety or depression. Diagnostically he would fit the category of having a situational adjustment disorder with anxiety. "He has, according to testing, some compulsive personality features, but he has no diagnosable axis two disorders and no other axis one disorder. There are no findings that would preclude him from being able to parent effectively," unquote. Dr. Zuckerman's report further notes that when

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Justin was about -- Justin, the child -- was about 3 or 4,

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Mr. Wilson described that his drinking had become "a problem" and that he was having as many as 5 beers a night for a period of about 4 years. During that time he "remembers having driven a car in situations -- sometimes taking Zhenya" -- another name for Justin -- "to activities wherein he might have been legally considered inebriated. He feels he was somewhat less available to Zhenya during this time." Mr. Wilson testified that he has not had a drop of alcohol in over a thousand days. Mr. Wilson appears to be in good physical health. He is a vegetarian and works out daily. 3. The relationship existing between each parent and Justin, including positive involvement and ability to accurately assess and meet the emotional, intellectual and physical needs of the child. Ms. Wilson. The weight of the credible evidence shows that Ms. Wilson's relationship with Justin when he is in her presence without interference from Mr. Wilson is warm, loving and caring.

Ms. Wilson engages Justin in numerous age appropriate activies, including soccer, swimming, music

lessons, reading in both Russian and English, cooking, amusements, cultural activities, outings with friends, hiking, camping, birthday parties, and travel.

Justin since before the divorce testified as to the positive nature of their relationship and the types of activities that they do together. Justin spends time in the company of his mother and his childhood friends when he is with his mother, as well as at a wide variety of activities.

He also plays tennis with one of his coaches,

Fred Delasobera, on Sunday mornings, who testified that

Justin's relationship with his mother was normal. Mr.

Delasorbera was Justin's primary tennis coach until

December 2018, when Mr. Wilson hired a different coach,

Michael Retta, for Justin. Mr. Retta only coaches Justin

when he is with his father.

Ms. Wilson's mother, Olga Bogatova, spends summers in the United States and provided testimony regarding the nature of Ms. Wilson's relationship with Justin. She observed that Justin appeared happy when he was in his mother's house, except when he expected his

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father to call. She testified that sometimes during these calls, Justin suddenly starts screaming at Ms. Bogatova and Ms. Wilson, saying derogatory things to them.

The Court finds significant the fact that after these calls finish Justin apologizes to his mother and grandmother for his behavior, recognizing that the behavior is not appropriate.

The credible evidence shows that in the last several years, transitions between Mother and Father's custodial time have been very difficult for Justin.

Mr. Retta, Justin's tennis coach, who plays tennis with Justin immediately upon his return to Mr. Wilson on Sunday evenings, and several of Ms. Wilson's friends who routinely spend time with the family on Sunday afternoons, testified that Justin is noticeably anxious in the time before the transition between the two households or lethargic and sad afterwards.

Ms. Wilson testified that she generally needs to end activities about an hour before Justin is returned to his father on Sunday. And she spends this time alone with him sitting with him, talking with him, and hugging him as he prepares to go to his father's home.

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Likewise, Justin has, on at least three 2 occasions before returning to his mother's home, 3 physically resisted leaving his father's company until his father was no longer present. At some point between the summer of 2017 and 2018, Justin's attitude towards his mother changed. In an email exchange between Ms. Wilson and Mr. Wilson, which was admitted as Plaintiff's Exhibit 12, Ms. Wilson noted that "Zhenya seems more resentful of me and blames me for everything whenever he gets upset. especially noticeable when he first comes to be with me." 12 In that same email Ms. Wilson stated that she 13 was concerned about Justin's well-being, stating, "He needs reassurance from you" -- Mr. Wilson -- "that it's 15 okay to feel good with both parents. Since you have a great deal of influence on him and he takes your opinions 16 very personally, he would clearly benefit from you cutting back on criticizing him and his activities with me. need to prepare him and ourselves for his pre-teen and teen years and need to help him work on the coping mechanisms and build his confidence." Mr. Wilson acknowledged that he likely did not

respond to Ms. Wilson's email.

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On numerous occasions in the fall and winter of 2018 and 2019, Ms. Wilson overheard Mr. Wilson using profane and derogatory language when discussing her in front of Justin.

She also heard him belittling the child's activities with her, including swimming, guitar lessons and going to the trampoline park, and telling the child to disobey his mother.

During the mother's custodial time in winter 2018, she overheard Mr. Wilson instructing Justin to refuse to go on a trip to Disney World with her and instead to leave the house and go to his father's home.

Mr. Wilson admitted to Dr. Zuckerman that there were times when "he has expressed his dissatisfaction about Ms. Wilson to Justin," including that she does not, "support his strong interest in tennis."

He also told Dr. Zuckerman that Justin knows "that his father disapproves of his mother's behavior and demonstrates dissatisfaction with Ms. Wilson at transition."

Mr. Wilson stated unequivocally on direct

examination that he has said "reprehensible things about the mother in front of the child."

Although he was noticeably less candid on cross-examination, he did not deny the statements attributed to him by Ms. Wilson that he used profanity when describing her to the child, that he told the child to disobey the mother, and that he disparaged the child's activities with the mother, including going to the trampoline park and to Disney World.

As to the content of these conversations, after hearing the testimony of both Ms. Wilson and Mr. Wilson, and watching the demeanor of the two in the courtroom, the Court finds Ms. Wilson's testimony to be credible and Mr. Wilson's testimony on cross-examination not credible.

The weight of the evidence establishes that since the time of separation, Ms. Wilson has been aware of Justin's need to maintain a relationship with his father and has tried to navigate a coparenting relationship with Mr. Wilson without success.

Ms. Wilson is responsive and appropriate in matters involving Justin's school, takes him to medical appointments and counseling, encourages him to play

tennis, even during her custodial time, and does not interfere with Mr. Wilson's custodial time, going so far as to find ways for Justin to talk with his father even when the family is on a camping trip, on vacation, at the park and on travel.

Plaintiff presented evidence of two occasions when there did appear to have been a misunderstanding regarding transfer dates and times on the part of Ms. Wilson.

The Court finds that while Justin is with Ms. Wilson, she provides both structured and unstructured time as well as ongoing and varied physical activity. She also engages Justin in social and creative activities and intellectual pursuits, including birthday parties, trips to the library, math, chess, reading in Russian and English, cooking, music and theater arts.

Ms. Wilson and her mother both testified that there is a clear routine followed in the home when Justin is present. While the routine is different than what Mr. Wilson follows, Dr. Sowa testified that Justin can adapt to different routines in different households as long as the routines within each household are consistently

1 followed in that household. 2 The Court found this testimony to be credible. 3 Mr. Wilson. The evidence also shows that when 4 Justin is with Mr. Wilson they appear to have a positive, 5 loving relationship. 6 This evidence was presented by Dr. Sowa, who has 7 seen Mr. Wilson interact with Justin, and Michael Retta, the tennis coach who has spent approximately 8 to 10 hours 8 per week with Justin and Mr. Wilson since December of 10 Mr. Sere also testified that Mr. Wilson's 2018. interactions with Justin at school were all appropriate. 11 12 Mr. Wilson's interactions with Justin appear to center around tennis and basketball. Justin plays every 13 14 day for two to two and a half hours during Mr. Wilson's 15 custodial time. Mr. Retta testified that he is paid 16 \$2,500 per week by Mr. Wilson to provide tennis lessons to 17 Justin and Mr. Wilson who is his largest single client. 18 Justin also plays basketball at the rec center 19 while Mr. Wilson works out nearby. 20 Mr. Wilson admitted that for one season he 21 allowed Justin to watch a Netflix series about a serial

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Mr. Wilson testified that when school is not in session, he and Justin also read and spend free time together doing various activities. Although Mr. Wilson emphasized that he had a strict routine that he followed with Justin, Mr. Retta and Mr. Wilson provided somewhat conflicting testimony regarding that schedule. While it appears that Mr. Wilson does love his son, he admitted that he loathes Ms. Wilson. The Court finds that the weight of the credible evidence established that since at least the summer of 2018, Mr. Wilson has engaged in a course of behavior that is negatively interfering with Ms. Wilson's relationship with Justin. The Court finds that this behavior is not consistent with Justin's emotional needs, but instead creates substantial stress for the child by forcing the child to choose between his parents. Mr. Wilson testified that he calls Justin every day and talks for upward of a half an hour during Ms. Wilson's custodial time.

During the school year Ms. Wilson has custodial

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time only three nights per week. Ms. Wilson's testimony is that the calls at times last an hour or longer and often upset the child so much that he has a hard time falling asleep.

Mr. Wilson expects to talk with Justin, regardless of what he is doing. By his own admission he becomes frustrated and upset if his call is not returned almost immediately after it is made.

Various witnesses testified that Ms. Wilson often has to go to great lengths to ensure that Justin is able to communicate with Mr. Wilson when he calls and that the calls are not only stress inducing for Justin, but generate conflict between Justin and Ms. Wilson. As a result of one such call while Justin was in Florida with his mother, Justin jumped out of a car onto the side of a busy road at night in the dark and ran from his mother, putting himself and others in the car in real danger. Justin can be heard on the video telling his father he has to call him back and subsequently yelling at his mother that she and the others in the car have to wait so he can talk with his father.

During the 4-day trip to Florida, Mr. Wilson

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constantly and repeatedly called and emailed Ms. Wilson about talking with Justin, even though there was no obvious need for Mr. Wilson to talk with the child while he was on vacation in Florida.

Email communications introduced by Plaintiff's Counsel, as well as testimony by Ms. Wilson, indicate that Mr. Wilson has repeatedly threatened to stop providing things to Justin that are important to him, such as tennis lessons, in order to induce the child to do what Mr. Wilson wants, including refusing to go on planned outings and vacations with Ms. Wilson.

On the night prior to the Disney World trip, Mr. Wilson not only attempted to convince the child to refuse to go on the trip, but then physically drove over to the mother's apartment and asked the concierge to go to the apartment to perform a welfare check on the child in what can only be viewed as an attempt to manufacture some reason to keep the child from going on the trip.

After observing Mr. Wilson's demeanor on the witness stand for almost 5 hours, the Court finds Mr. Wilson's testimony to be, for the most part, not credible, particularly regarding the events of December 29 through

January 2nd.

The Court finds that Mr. Wilson is willing to support only those activities that he deems appropriate for Justin -- primarily sporting activities and one on one time with Mr. Wilson -- and actively attempts to undermine those activities that Ms. Wilson deems important. He also consistently seeks to impose his will on Justin, even when he is with Ms. Wilson, and to create conflict with Ms. Wilson when Mr. Wilson cannot get what he wants.

The Court finds these facts significant in determining the best interest of the child.

4. The needs of the child, giving due consideration to other important relationships of the child, including, but not limited to siblings, peers and extended family members.

Justin needs and wants the love and affection of both parents, and as a general matter seems content when dealing with either parent without the interference of the other.

Justin is a high needs child. And routine and structure are important to him. The credible evidence supports that both parents provide structure in their

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household. The structure is simply different in the two households. However, as Dr. Sowa explained, Justin need not have the same routine and structure with both parents. He needs clear rules and routines for each individual household which are consistently applied within that household. Justin appears to have a close relationship with his maternal grandmother who he sees for several months every year, friends he knows through his mother, friends from school, and his tennis coach, Mr. Retta. He apparently also has some friends he plays basketball with at the community center, but there was no evidence that Justin socializes with them outside of that environment. The role each parent has played and will play in the future in the upbringing of the child. Ms. Wilson testified that she has been Justin's primary caretaker his entire life up to this point. Wilson testified that he became Justin's primary caretaker when Justin was 4 or 5 when Ms. Wilson returned to work. While it is probable that Mr. Wilson took on

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additional responsibilities for Justin's care when Ms.

Wilson returned to work, by Mr. Wilson's own admission, he was drinking heavily during this time and likely not very available to Justin.

Given the toxic relationship between the parents, this Court cannot envision how both parents can continue to play an equal ongoing supportive role in Justin's life in the future.

6. The propensity of each parent to actively support the child's contact and relationship with the other parent, including whether a parent has unreasonably denied the other parent access to or visitation with the child.

The Court adopts the facts previously articulated in evaluating this factor.

The Court finds that Ms. Wilson has demonstrated an ongoing willingness to support Justin's contact and relationship with his father and has not unreasonably denied Mr. Wilson access or visitation with Justin.

The Court finds that Mr. Wilson has actively and somewhat successfully undermined Ms. Wilson's relationship with Justin and has actively interfered with Ms. Wilson's access to and visitation with the child.

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In addition to the testimony regarding Mr. Wilson actively denigrating the mother's choices for the child, as well as trying to impose Mr. Wilson's needs and wants on Ms. Wilson's custodial time with the child, the Court finds significant Mr. Wilson's statement to Dr. Zuckerman that when Justin complains about issues with his mother, Mr. Wilson agrees with the child, rather than supporting Ms. Wilson. The Court does not find evidence to support Mr. Wilson's contention that Ms. Wilson has repeatedly interfered with his ability to have reasonable contact with his child. The relative willingness and demonstrated ability of each parent to maintain a close and continuing relationship with the child and the ability of each parent to cooperate and resolve disputes regarding the matters affecting the child. The Court adopts the facts previously articulated in evaluating this factor. As already described in substantial detail, the Court finds that Mr. Wilson is neither capable nor willing to cooperate with

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Ms. Wilson to resolve issues regarding the child.

The Court notes that although Dr. Sowa has suggested on at least two occasions that the parents consider medication for Justin for his ADHD, and Ms. Wilson has indicated a willingness to discuss this possibility, Mr. Wilson has consistently refused to discuss with Ms. Wilson the possibility of medication for Justin.

The Court also notes that when deciding which school to transfer Justin to after the decision was made to remove him from Congressional, although Ms. Wilson was leaning towards a different school, Mr. Wilson unilaterally made the decision to place Justin at Commonwealth Academy then criticized Ms. Wilson for waiting until the final day to sign the paperwork.

Finally, the evidence supports a finding that had this Court not entered an order in March 2019 allowing either party to record telephone calls with the child, Mr. Wilson would have continued his abusive and derogatory comments towards the mother in his phone calls with the child.

The reasonable preference of the child if the Court deems the child to be of reasonable intelligence,

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understanding, age, and experience to express such a preference.

The Court finds that Justin does not possess the requisite age, understanding or experience to express a preference. Justin is 10 years old, about to turn 11, and will be entering the fifth grade. As such, he has not yet completed elementary school.

He has ADHD and struggles with impulse control which appears to be triggered to extreme degrees after spending time with or during phone conversations with his father.

He has difficulty with executive decision making, particularly understanding the consequences of his words, actions and choices.

He exhibits continued and ongoing stress when faced with conflict between his parents, and acts out aggressively, particularly towards his mother, when faced with making any choice that is contrary to the expressed wishes of his father.

The Court has carefully considered each of the above factors and all of the -- I do not believe there's -- I think the final factor is evidence of prior abuse.

And I do not find that any evidence was presented of prior 1 2 abuse, so the Court has also considered that factor. 3 The Court has carefully considered each of the factors in Code Section 20-124.3 affording each the 4 5 appropriate weight, given the record in this case, the testimony presented, including the demeanor and 6 7 credibility of the respective witnesses which the Court 8 heard and observed over a period of 3 days of testimony, 9 and has reviewed the exhibits introduced into evidence. 10 The Court finds that the best interests of the 11 child require that the custody and visitation schedule set 12 forth in the Marital Settlement Agreement be modified as 13 follows. 14 The parties will continue to share joint 15 legal custody. However, in the event the parties cannot reach agreement, Ms. Wilson will have final authority to 16 17 make decisions on behalf of the child. 18 Two. Ms. Wilson is granted primary physical 19 custody of Justin. 20 Three. Mr. Wilson will have visitation with

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Justin every other weekend beginning after school on

Friday until Monday night at 7:00 p.m.

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Justin may attend one tennis lesson with Mr. Retta each week during mother's custodial time. lesson will be scheduled directly between Ms. Wilson and Mr. Retta. And Ms. Wilson will bring the child to and from the lesson. Mr. Wilson will arrange for payment to Mr. Retta in accordance with any financial arrangement they reach. Five. Neither parent shall make derogatory or disparaging comments about the other parent or the activities that parent has arranged for the child. And neither parent shall use profanity in conversations with the child or with the other parent. Ms. Wilson will not call or schedule any Six. events for Justin during Father's custodial time. Ms. Wilson will forward via email to Mr. Wilson invitations to birthday parties or other events that occur during Mr. Wilson's custodial time. And Mr. Wilson will have sole authority to decide whether Justin attends. Seven. Mr. Wilson will not call Justin during Mother's custodial time except Mr. Wilson may call Justin between 8:00 and 8:30 p.m. every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evening. And the calls will be limited to half

an hour. 1 2 Ms. Wilson will ensure that Justin is available to speak with his father during this time. All telephone 3 calls may be recorded at the option of the custodial . 4 5 parent without warning, and such recording will be deemed 6 consensual on the part of the recorded party. 7 Eight. Justin will spend parents' birthdays 8 with the respective parent. The parent celebrating the 9 birthday can pick Justin up the night before at 7:00 p.m. 10 and return the child to school the morning after the 11 birthday. 12 If the morning after falls on a weekend, the 13 child shall be returned no later than 10:00 a.m., unless 14 it is that parent's custodial weekend. 15 Neither parent shall call the child while he is 16 celebrating the other parent's birthday. 17 Justin will spend every other one of his birthdays with his father beginning in 2019. 18 19 visitation schedule will be the same as for either 20 parent's birthday. 21 The parent who is not with Justin on his 22 birthday may call him at a time to be agreed upon by the

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. 1 parties. Holidays, spring break and winter break will remain as set forth in the parties' Marital Separation 3 Agreement. 5 Each parent will be permitted one half-hour call 6 with the child on the following holidays: New Year's Day, 7 Thanksgiving, and Christmas. The parents will not call the child on any other 9 holiday when the child is with the non-custodial parent 10 and will be permitted one call with the child during 11 spring and winter break during the other parent's 12 custodial time. 13 During the summer Mr. Wilson will have two 14 uninterrupted weeks with Justin during the month of June 15 which will begin at 10:00 a.m. Sunday and last until 7:00 16 p.m. the following Sunday. So two successive Sundays 17 because it's two uninterrupted weeks. 18 Mr. Wilson will have one uninterrupted week in 19 each of the months of July and August which will last from 10:00 a.m. Sunday until 7:00 p.m. the following Sunday. 20

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time or schedule any activities for him.

Ms. Wilson will not contact Justin during this

1 Mr. Wilson will not schedule any camps or other . 2 activities for Justin except during his custodial time. Ms. Wilson will advise Dr. Sowa or 3 4 whoever Justin's current therapist is regarding any camp . 5 she intends to register Justin in during the summer prior 6 to registration. And that therapist will advise her if 7 Justin expresses any concerns with any camp proposed. 8 Twelve. Each parent will give the other parent 9 24 hours notice of their intention to take the child on a 10 trip outside of the D.C. Metropolitan area, providing the times and dates of travel, destination and persons 11 12 traveling with parent and child. 13 Unless the travel dates include New Year's Day, 14 Thanksgiving or Christmas, the non-custodial parent will 15 not call the child during the travel dates except on the 16 specified holiday. 17 Thirteen. Mr. Wilson will continue his current 18 therapy and will also complete anger management therapy. 19 Mr. Wilson will also engage in family counseling with 20 Justin and coordinate the counseling with Dr. Sowa. 21 Fourteen. Ms. Wilson will engage in family 22 counseling with Justin and will coordinate the counseling

1	with Dr. Sowa.
2	Defendant's emergency motion to modify custody
3	is granted. Father's motion to modify custody is denied.
4	The Court finds it it Mr. Wilson's conduct, not Ms.
5	Wilson's conduct, that brings this matter before the
6	Court.
7	The Court further finds that the award of
8	attorney's fees to Ms. Wilson is supported by the record.
9	Do the parties have any questions?
10	MR. KUBLAN: Your Honor, just one clarification
11	about summertime? I think the Court said two weeks in
12	June, one week in July and one week in August for the
13	father.
14	What about Ms. Wilson
15	THE COURT: The rest of the time is Ms.
16	Wilson's.
17	MR. KUBLAN: But you know, but if she wants
18	to take him, let's say two weeks uninterrupted and, you
19.	know, we have
20	THE COURT: She should be able to do that
21	because he has every other weekend.
22	MR. KUBLAN: I guess so, yes. Never mind.

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1	THE COURT: I don't think that should be a
2	problem, but if it is, I do intend for her also to be able
3	to have a period of two uninterrupted weeks. That can be
4	in July or August.
. 5	MR. KUBLAN: Can Your Honor put that in the
6	order then?
7	THE COURT: Certainly.
8	MR. KUBLAN: Okay.
9	THE COURT: Any additional questions?
10	MS. PIPER: As to Mr. Wilson's therapist may
11	he choose a therapist?
12	THE COURT: Certainly.
13	MS. PIPER: I have questions as to times but I
14	can get that from the court reporter.
15	THE COURT: Okay. What I would suggest is if
16	the parties would prepare an order. And that way you can
17	kind of confer and you can look at the transcript and make
18	sure it's it's consistent.
19	We can schedule a date in a couple of weeks to
20	enter the order. And if there are any questions at that
21	point the Court will take them up.
22	Mr. Wilson, I will simply tell you I don't

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1	really think you appreciated how generous Ms. Wilson was
2	in the marital separation and custody and visitation
3	arrangement that she agreed with you at the time of the
4	divorce.
5	And I genuinely believe that we would not be
6	here today but for the conduct that you have engaged in.
7	And I hope that you will use this as an opportunity to
8 ,	reflect on that and modify that conduct because I do
9	believe it is very important for you and that you
10	consider it very important to have an ongoing
11	relationship with your son.
12	And I'd like to see that happen. But it can not
13	things can not continue in the way they have been over
14	the last 18 months.
15	If there are no further questions, thank you,
16	Counsel for your time. Have a nice weekend.
17	MR. KUBLAN: Your Honor, should we select a date
18	to
19	THE COURT: Oh, yes. Why don't we do that?
20	MS. PIPER: Actually, Your Honor, I I do have
21	a question. When is the custodial schedule to begin?
22	MR. KUBLAN: Can it be (indiscernible)?

1 Where is -- where is Justin this --THE COURT: 2 where was he supposed to be this weekend? 3 MS. PIPER: Justin is supposed to be with Mr. 4 Wilson this weekend. 5 THE COURT: Okay. So I would like to keep that. 6 I don't at five o'clock on Friday want to suddenly pull 7 the rug out from under him. So I would like to keep that 8 and have that custody continue until 7:00 p.m. on Monday. 9 And then we'll pick up with the custodial 10 schedule beginning 7:00 p.m. on Monday. 11 MS. PIPER: And I -- and I didn't raise this 12 before, but, Your Honor, I believe it would be best for 13 Justin to have Dr. Sowa talk to him about the custodial 14 change or be available. 15 Can we have a ruling or can the parties agree that they are not going to discuss the changes with Justin 16 17 until his therapy appointment which is Thursday? 18 MR. KUBLAN: I don't understand why there needs 19 to be even a discussion, Your Honor. The child is ten 20 I mean, it just -- it's -- I -- I just think, you years. know, they are just going to continue with the new 21 22 schedule.

1	And if the child has any questions, you know,
, 2	then I think they just say to the child that this is what
3	they decided.
4	MS. PIPER: I mean, I think that he would
5	benefit from having Dr. Sowa available to talk to him.
6	THE COURT: I don't have any problem with having
7	Dr. Sowa available. I I do think at this point that it
8 _	makes the most sense to just explain to him that this is
9	what the the arrangement is going to be going forward.
10	And then Dr. Sowa can certainly be available to
11 .	him whenever Justin would like to talk with him about it.
12	I'm sure there will be a number of issues that he'll like
13	to talk about.
14	MR. KUBLAN: So just to be clear, Your Honor,
15	starting this Monday at 7:00 o'clock that's when the new
16	schedule is going to begin?
17	THE COURT: Correct.
18	MR. KUBLAN: Okay. And what's the Court's
19	availability for the
20	THE COURT: Any day but the 13th of September
21	any Friday but the 13th of September.
22 ·	MS. PIPER: I'm available on the 30th and the

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      6th.
                MR. KUBLAN: I'm available on the 6th, Your
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      Honor, too.
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                THE COURT:
                            We will set this down for 10:00 a.m.
 5
      on the 6th of September.
 6
                THE CLERK:
                            (Inaudible.)
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                            Yes. Thank you, Counsel, Mr.
                THE COURT:
      Wilson, Mrs. Wilson.
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                 (Whereupon, at approximately 5:00 o'clock p.m.,
     the hearing in the above-entitled matter concluded.)
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## CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, COURTNEY A. SEBASTIAN, a Certified Court
Reporter, do hereby certify that I took the stenographic
notes of the foregoing proceedings which I thereafter
reduced to typewriting; that the foregoing is a true
record of said proceedings; that I am neither counsel for,
related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the
action in which these proceedings were held; and, further,
that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or
counsel employed by the parties hereto, nor financially or
otherwise interested in the outcome of the action.

Courtney Sebastian COURTNEY & SEBASTIAN, CCR